

Message Text

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SAM-01 SAJ-01 /246 W

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INFO ALL OAU CAPITALS 005

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0868

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, EGEN, OAU

SUBJ: OAU 23RD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM)

REF: MOGADISCIO 858

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 8 23RD CM DISCUSSED ARAB FINANCIAL AID TO
AFRICAN OIL IMPORTERS. NAIROBI RESOLUTIONS ON LAW OF SEA SEEM
LIKELY TO BE REVISED SUBSTANTIALLY. VIET CONG FONMIN HAS ARRIVED

IN TOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. SATURDAY JUNE 8 WAS ARAB DAY AT 23RD CM. MORNING PLENARY
SESSION HEARD REPORT BY COMMITTEE OF SEVEN CHAIRMAN, SUDANESE
FONMIN MANSUR KHALID, WHO TOLD COUNCIL (A) SUPPLY OF OIL TO
AFRICAN GUARANTEED BY ARABS; (B) OIL PRICES WHICH ARE FIXED BY
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OPEC NOT NEGOTIABLE (I.E. NO PREFERENTIAL PRICES FOR AFRICANS);

AND (C) ARABS HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED US\$100 MILLION TO PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED \$200 MILLION FUND FOR AFRICANS. ACCORDING OAU SPOKESMAN, FRANK DISCUSSION ENSUED. COUNCIL DECIDED (A) TO ACCEPT ARAB LEAGUE OFFER OF US\$200 MILLION FUND (B) TO DEPOSIT MONIES ON HAND IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), ABIDJAN, AND (C) TO HAVE FUND ADMINISTERED BY ADB IN ASSOCIATION WITH OAU. COMMENT: MANSUR KHALID'S LAST-MINUTE TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS PRODUCED APPARENTLY BARE MINIMUM TO AVOID SERIOUS SPLIT BETWEEN ARABS AND BLACK AFRICANS. FRIENDLY ARAB SOURCES STATE, IN EFFECT, "WE JUST BARELY SQUEAKED BY." AFRICANS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECT TO SEE THE REMAINING US\$100 MILLION IN NEAR FUTURE. TERMS AND PURPOSES OF FUND APPARENTLY UNCHANGED FROM THOSE REPORTED EARLIER BY EMBASSIES KHARTOUM AND ADDIS.

3. AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION DEBATED PROPOSED ARAB DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR AFRICA, REPORTEDLY CAPITALIZED AT US \$500 MILLION. MANY DELEGATIONS SAW NO NEED FOR NEW INSTITUTION AND PROPOSED THAT ADB ADMINISTER THESE MONIES. ARABS NATURALLY RESPONDED. ISSUE NOT YET RESOLVED.

4. INFORMED SOURCES BELIEVE IT MORE URGENT THAN EVER FOR ARAB CHIEFS TO ATTEND SUMMIT. EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENT TOLD EMBOFF CATEGORICALLY THAT SADAT PLANS TO BE ENROUTE TO MOGADISCIO "WITHIN THE HOUR" OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO.

5. BOTH ETHIOPIAN VICE-MINISTER GETACHEW KIBRET AND OAU ASST SEC GEN PETER ONU TOLD EMBOFF THAT OAU POSITIONS ON LAW OF SEA ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THOSE TAKEN IN NAIROBI. LOS STILL IN COMMITTEE: FURTHER CHANGES LIKELY IN PLENARY SESSION. CHANGES REPORTED TO BE "MOVING IN USG DIRECTION."

6. PRG FONMIN MADAME BINH APPEARED IN "PEOPLE'S HALL" EVENING JUNE 8. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THIS WEEK WILL SEE ADDITIONAL AFRICAN RECOGNITIONS OF BOTH PRG AND GRUNK.

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